

B.Z. (West Berlin) 3 April 1959

Abduction an "Error" - but Karl Fricke was

CPYRGHT

IN SSD - CUSTODY FOUR YEARS!

Berlin, 3 April BZ - After four years of solitary confinement in the Soviet Zone penitentiary in Bautzen, 29 year old journalist Karl-Wilhelm Fricke has returned to West Berlin. He had been abducted from Schöneberg to East Berlin by agents of the Soviet-zonal State Security Service (SSD) on 1 April 1955.

Fricke had fallen victim to a distant acquaintance. This acquaintance, a man from Potsdam named Rittwagen, who had fled years ago, had prepared the abduction on orders from the SSD.

BECAUSE AN AGENT LIED

Agent Rittwagen had described journalist Fricke to his East Berlin superiors as one of "the chief agents from Bonn."

Only after the abduction did they find out that they had carried off a man who worked in West Berlin strictly as a journalist and who was generally esteemed for his correctness.

For the SSD this abduction was merely an "error." Nevertheless Fricke was not released. To save appearances he was condemned to four years in prison by the Supreme Court of the Soviet Zone behind closed doors on the strength of threadbare evidence.

Fricke's mother who lived in the Zone was likewise arrested and condemned to two years in prison.